ADELPHI PULLS THE PLUG ON WBAU

BY DAVID HINCKLEY

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CALLING IT a luxury the school can no longer afford, Adelphi University has shut down WBAU, the radio station which in the early '80s was among the first in America to play hip-hop. While rumors had swirled all summer, staffers at the eclectic alternative-music station were still shocked and angered Thursday to find locked doors and a security guard. The license was sold for an undisclosed sum to WHPC at Nassau Community College, with which WBAU had previously split the 90.
3 FM frequency. WBAU had taken most of the nighttime hours and WHPC most of the day. Nassau spokesman Bob Allen said that once the FCC approves the license transfer, WHPC will use some of the additional time to offer more over-the-air credit courses. WHPC also plays "soft" music, and Allen said the station may now play "something that appeals to a younger audience" at night. He said several WBAU hosts have inquired about continuing their shows on WHPC and "every proposal will be considered.
" It is unlikely, however, that WHPC would suddenly absorb WBAU shows which go deeply into fields like hip-hop, reggae and world music. While some WBAU staffers traced the license sale to administration dislike of that programing, school spokesman Vince Pisarro said Friday, "I've never heard one word" of criticism from administrators about the station. Pisarro said the station was sold because it had become "financially infeasible, given the very low level of involvement by current students.
" WBAU needed about $50,000 a year from student activity fees, a sum Pisarro says the Student Activities Board "was no longer willing to invest.
" WBAU also needed a major technical upgrade. But beyond that, says Pisarro, it had reached a crossroads "where it could not continue the way it was. It was just too chaotic. We either had to turn it into a major, professionally run station like WFUV and WKCR, or get out of radio altogether.
" So WBAU's music collection becomes part of the Adelphi library, and WBAU itself becomes part of history. More on that momentarily. AROUND THE DIAL: Tonight is Caribbean Night at Wingate Park in Brooklyn, with The Mighty Sparrow headlining a free 7:30 concert. WBLS sponsors. . . . WKCR (89.
9 FM) continues its Lester Young/Charlie Parker tribute through 9:30 a.
m. Wednesday. . . . Mayor Giuliani talks immigration tonight at 9 on WKDM (1380 AM).

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